



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Tara B. White, Chair
Nathaniel H. Yohalem
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 2014**

Board Members Present: Nathaniel Yohalem, Outgoing Chairman
Tara B. White, Incoming Chairman
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 11:04 a.m.

The Board read the minutes. **After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2014 and May 9, 2014, Selectmen's Meeting, as amended.**

Reorganization – Chairman, Nat Yohalem nominated Tara White for the Chairman's position on the Board of Selectmen. Selectmen Tara White advised she would accept this position if elected. **A vote was taken and approved by Selectmen Nat Yohalem and Michele Shalaby (Tara White recused herself from the vote) for Tara White to become the Chairman is the Selectmen's Board.**

Annual Meetings – Selectmen Nat Yohalem suggested that in the future the Town Treasurer be required to attend the Annual Meeting, and that every member of the Finance Committee be requested to attend as well. Michael Skorput suggested that all department heads be present for the Annual Meeting. **A motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members that any special or town meeting be attended by all Department Heads (or their representative) that have a budget, the Finance Committee and the Treasurer.**

East Hill Property - Tax Assessor, Marsha Pshenishny, advised she received a call from Cartographic, who reviewed everything Marsha sent him previously, and indicated that if the deeds are followed, the 130' X 110' measurement is correct at .31 acres. Cartographic recommended that this property be surveyed. No survey was found for the Hearn property, although Cartographic advised that the deed for that property was very precise and perhaps at some point a survey had been done but not recorded.

Retirement Plan Issue raised at Town Hall Meeting – Michael Skorput gave an update on the Retirement Fund issues. He advised this program was set up in the Berkshire County days, and that once the County government was dissolved, the retirement fund, Berkshire Regional Planning and the health insurance carried on as an independent entity. This was made up from most of the towns in Berkshire County. He believes that the cities in Berkshire County are not part of this plan and that they self-insure for retirement funds. Michael Skorput further instructed that all the Treasurers are on a board to review the fund yearly, or whenever there is an actionable occasion. The assessments to the towns primarily come from the gross salaries from the previous year. The town Treasurers' report the salaries from the previous year, and it is required that the retirement funds be solvent. Many towns had not been reporting their annual salaries but with GASB 45, they are now required to comply. Every year, a review is done and a percentage assessed to each town. The increase to the Town of New Marlborough is a result of salaries and to make the retirement fund solvent. Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director, Berkshire County Retirement, has been asked to attend a Selectmen's Board meeting sometime in June to discuss the Berkshire County Retirement fund. A list of questions will be prepared and sent to Sheila prior to the meeting. Selectmen Yohalem reminded the Board that about twelve years ago, the then Board of Selectmen instituted an Early Retirement portion of the retirement plan for three people. The Town's assessment for this portion of the Retirement Plan is approximately \$13,000.00. No additional people were added to this program. Without the \$13,000.00 that the Town is being assessed yearly, our contribution would be approximately \$87,000.00. This issue was of concern at the Town Meeting, and the Selectmen will make available to the Town all the details when available and the information gleaned once a meeting with the Berkshire County Retirement takes place.

Executive Session – Chairman White recommended the Board go into Executive Session at this point to discuss the East Hill property, as it may become a legal issue at some point. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members in a roll call vote to go into Executive Session to discuss the sale of the East Hill property and the ramifications of what is happening with it. The Board will not go back into regular session. Roll Call vote:**

Nat Yohalem	Yes
Michele Shalaby	Yes
Tara White	Yes

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m. and immediately move into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary